

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-12V

UNPUBLISHED

AMY SKOPAK,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: June 16, 2020

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder
Injury Related to Vaccine
Administration (SIRVA)

Leah VaSahnja Durant, Law Offices of Leah V. Durant, PLLC, Washington, DC, for petitioner.

Traci R. Patton, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On January 3, 2019, Amy Skopak filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered on September 28, 2017. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On March 6, 2020, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for her SIRVA. On June 11, 2020, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$69,286.35. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$69,286.35 (representing compensation in the amount of \$67,500.00 for pain and suffering and \$1,786.35 for past unreimbursable out of pocket medical expenses) in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran
Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

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Chief Special Master Corcoran

SPU

ECF

RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

On February 28, 2020, respondent filed a Vaccine Rule 4(c) report concluding that petitioner sustained an injury that is compensable under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 to -34, that is, a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), as defined in the Vaccine Injury Table. The Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement on March 6, 2020, finding that petitioner was entitled to vaccine compensation for her right-sided shoulder injury.

I. Compensation for Vaccine Injury-Related Items

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$69,286.35. The award is comprised of the following: \$67,500.00 for pain and suffering and \$1,786.35 for past unreimbursable out of pocket medical expenses. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

The parties recommend that compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment, and request that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's

judgment award the following: **\$69,286.35**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.¹

Petitioner agrees.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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s/ Traci R. Patton
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Dated: June 11, 2020

¹ Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future lost earnings and future pain and suffering.